

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 AID-20 SWF-02 AGR-20 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 NSC-07 XMB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 SP-03 /112 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:MGWYGANT:IW

APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

S/S - MR. LUERS

AFR/CWR/AID:FSPENCER (INFO)

AID/FFP:WJEANETTE (INFO)

AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN

----- 084748

P 090035Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID,PFOR, US, GV

SUBJECT- MEETING BETWEEN ACTING SECRETARY AND GUINEAN
FOREIGN MINISTER

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FILY CISSOKO MET WITH ACTING SECRETARY
MAY 6 FOR DETAILED, FRIENDLY DISCUSSION GUINEA'S FOOD PROBLEM
AND GENERAL ASSURANCES ON CURRENT STATE OF US/GUINEAN
RELATIONS. CISSOKO EMPHASIZED GUINEA'S FOOD SHORTAGE NOW
MORE ACUTE THAN PAST YEARS. HE CORDIALLY THANKED US FOR
PREVIOUS ASSISTANCE, BUT ASSERTED GOG NOT ENTIRELY SATIS-
FIED WITH COMMODITY AMOUNTS APPROVED FOR TITLE I FY-74
PROGRAM. HE PRAISED US-GUINEAN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND
SAID HIS COUNTRY NOW TURNS TO PROVEN FRIEND IN TIME OF
GREAT NEED.

2. CISSOKO DESCRIBED GOG WORRY THAT US NOT NOW AS
INTERESTED IN GUINEA BECAUSE PL-480 PROGRAM HAS BEEN DE-
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CLINING OVER RECENT YEARS. HE STATED GUINEA'S PREFERENCE

FOR SIGNING AGREEMENT HERE, BUT SAID GOG POSITION NOT BASED ON CONCERN THAT AGREEMENT ONCE SIGNED, COULD NOT BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE HIGHER COMMODITY AMOUNTS. MENTIONING ARREARAGES, MINISTER SAID ALL BUT DOLS 45,000 TO EX-IM HAD BEEN PAID IN TWO INSTALLMENTS APRIL 25, THUS OBVIATING NEED FOR TIMETABLE. GUINEA HAS HIGHEST HOPES FOR SUCCESS THIS MISSION AND ASKS FOR SYMPATHETIC USG RESPONSE, MINISTER CONCLUDED.

3. ACTING SECRETARY ASSURED CISSOKO US HIGHLY VALUES ITS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH GUINEA. AS TOKEN OF US CONCERN FOR GUINEA'S SERIOUS PROBLEM WE TOOK MOST UNUSUAL STEP OF ASKING OUR AMBASSADOR TO RETURN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATION ON THIS SUBJECT. ACTING SECRETARY EXPLAINED LIMITATIONS OUR ABILITY TO GIVE ADEQUATE RESPONSE NUMEROUS WORLD-WIDE DEMANDS FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE. NEVERTHELESS, HE PLEDGED SERIOUS USG CONSIDERATION FOR GUINEAN PROBLEM. HE SAID GUINEA WOULD RECEIVE FAIR SHARE OF AVAILABLE COMMODITIES, BUT CAUTIONED THAT AMOUNTS WOULD NOT MEET GOG DEMAND.

4. SAHEL DROUGHT PROBLEM WAS RAISED, CISSOKO ADMITTING GUINEA'S SITUATION LESS SEVERE THAN THAT OF SAHELIAN NEIGHBORS, BUT NONETHELESS, MORE SERIOUS THIS YEAR THAN LAST. MR. RUSH SAID US PREPARED TO SEND EXPERT FOR ON-SITE INSPECTION GUINEAN DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREA, TO WHICH CISSOKO RESPONDED MAN WOULD BE WELCOME.

5. CISSOKO MENTIONED LETTER HE BEARING FROM PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND ASKED FOR WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT. ACTING SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD GLADLY TRANSMIT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT, DOUBTING IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR CISSOKO TO DO SO PERSONALLY. AT CISSOKO'S INSISTANCE, ACTING SECRETARY AGREED TO FORWARD APPOINTMENT REQUEST.
RUSH

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